DREADNOK WAR
PART 5 OF 5
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
TOM REILLY
JORDIE BELLAIRE
G.I. JOE
image
#17

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CODENAME:

G.I. JOE

[MISSION LOG [03.017.01]

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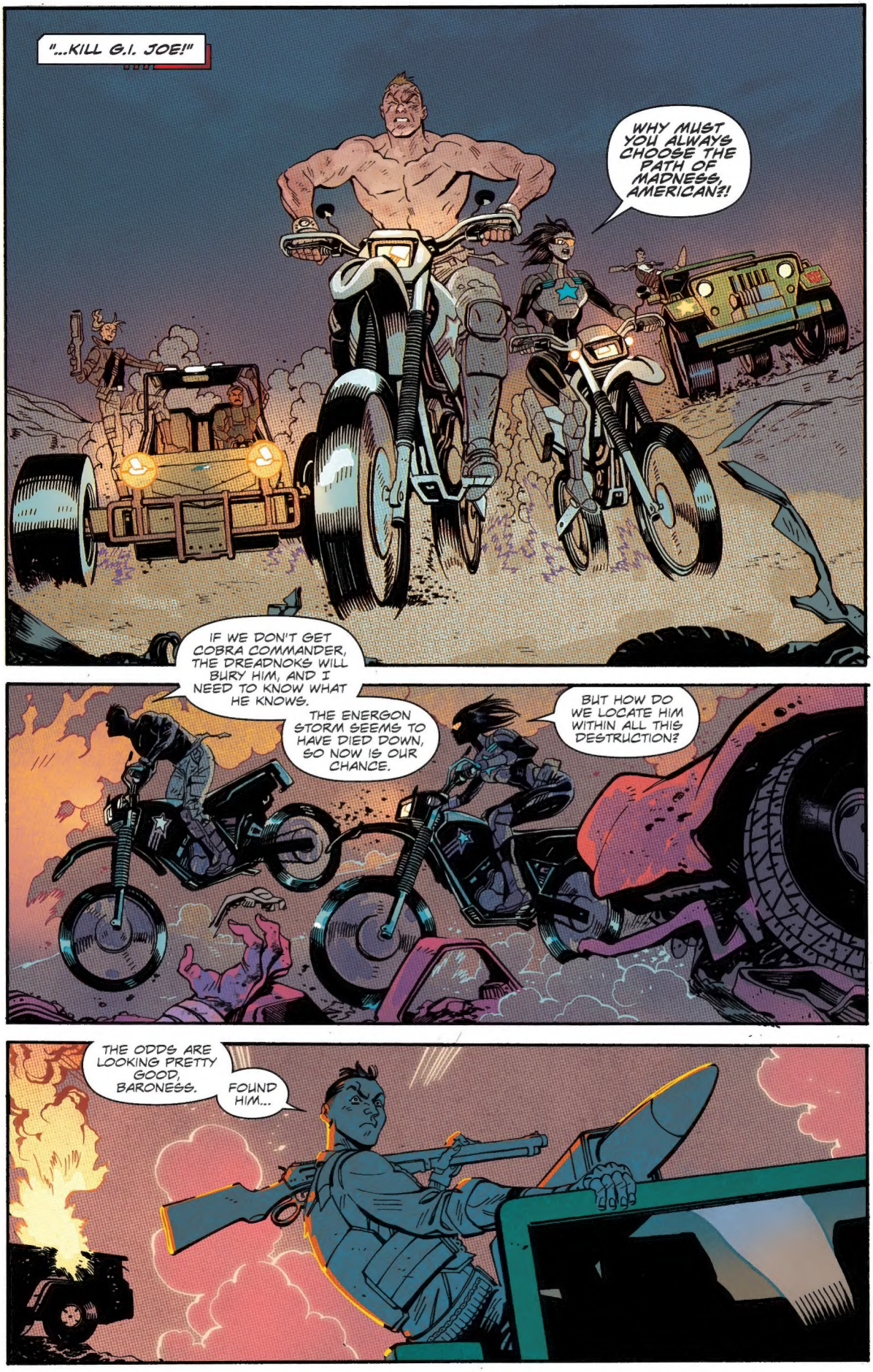
WHERE IN THE BLOODY HELL IS COBRA COMMANDER?!
BBZZZZ-AAAAHHHHH!!!
I AIN'T SEEN HIM SINCE BUZZER TOOK OFF AFTER HIM!
BNNNNNNN
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
I'LL BE...

YOU MAY WISH TO KILL ME, DREADNOKS...BUT ALLOW ME TO OFFER YOU...
AN ALTERNATIVE.
...HELP... ME...
BRRRRRRRRRR

ARE YOU JOKING?
LEAVE MY BFF ALONE!
WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU, YA BLOODY SNAKE!
WILL YOU THOUGH? YOU MAY ACT STUPID, BUT I SEE THROUGH THAT. YOU HAVE SKILLS AND SMARTS BEYOND EXPECTATIONS.
EVERY TIME WE ENCOUNTER EACH OTHER, YOU HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES.
I RESPECT YOUR HUSTLE. FEW HAVE COME THIS CLOSE TO KILLING ME.
BUT THAT IS AS FAR AS YOU WILL EVER GET. CLOSE.
SO, LISTEN.
YOU HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE THAT ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS MONEY AND PARTIES. AND I CAN GIVE YOU BOTH.
WHILE YOU PEDDLED ENERGON IN THE BACKWOODS, I USED IT TO BUILD AN EMPIRE. RIPPER HAS SEEN COBRA. HE KNOWS.
IT IS PRETTY SWEET, ACTUALLY.
BUT WE'RE NOT JOINING COBRA!
YEAH!
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO.
I WANT TO HIRE YOU AS... INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS... WITH YOUR FIRST JOB...


"...KILL G.I. JOE!"
WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS CHOOSE THE PATH OF MADNESS, AMERICAN?!
IF WE DON'T GET COBRA COMMANDER, THE DREADNOKS WILL BURY HIM, AND I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.
THE ENERGON STORM SEEMS TO HAVE DIED DOWN, SO NOW IS OUR CHANCE.
BUT HOW DO WE LOCATE HIM WITHIN ALL THIS DESTRUCTION?
THE ODDS ARE LOOKING PRETTY GOOD, BARONESS.
FOUND HIM...

THE DREADNOKS WORK FOR ME NOW.
WE'VE COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING. A KIND OF TRUCE.
WE CAN FORGIVE ANYTHING IF THERE'S A PAYCHECK IN IT.
THEY OUTNUMBER US.
I SAY WE GO DOWN WITH A FIGHT THEN.
SCREEECCCH! THOOSH!
THAT IS UNNECESSARY.
YOUR LEADER SAVED MY LIFE.
ALLOW ME TO DO THE SAME FOR YOU.
YOU MAY ESCAPE. UNHARMED. IF YOU GO NOW.
WE'RE NOT LEAVING, COBRA COMMANDER.
AND NEITHER ARE YOU.
FAIR ENOUGH.

DREADNOKS ATTACK!

YO JOE!

WHAT IS THE PLAN, CONRAD?

IT HASN'T CHANGED. GET COBRA COMMANDER OUT OF THIS DESERT ***ALIVE.***

WE'RE GONNA BE LUCKY IF ***WE*** LEAVE IT ALIVE.

STALKER IS RIGHT.

DUKE... I'M SORRY.

FOR WHAT?

HOUND... ***DO IT!***

KHEE

KO

KO

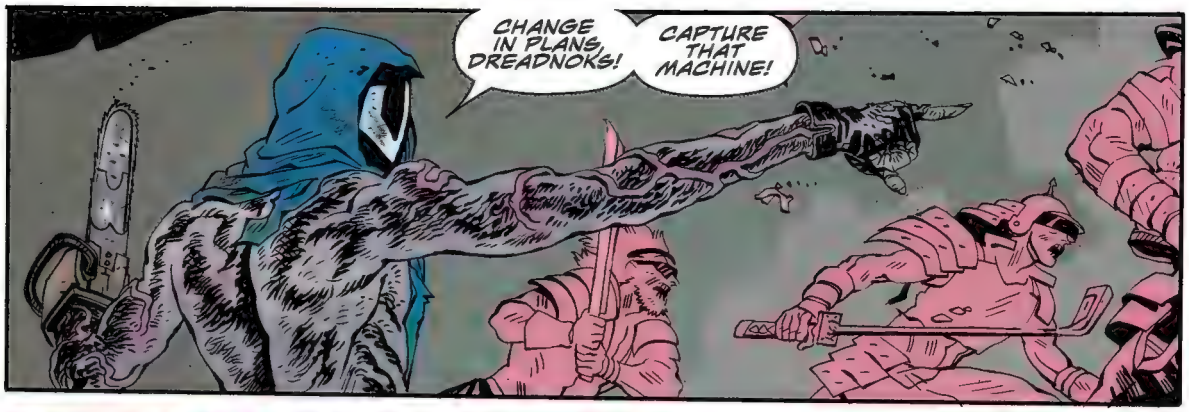
KHAH

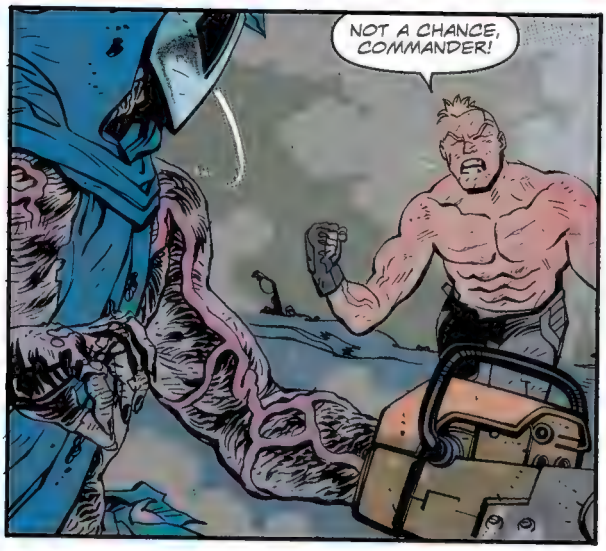
KUEE

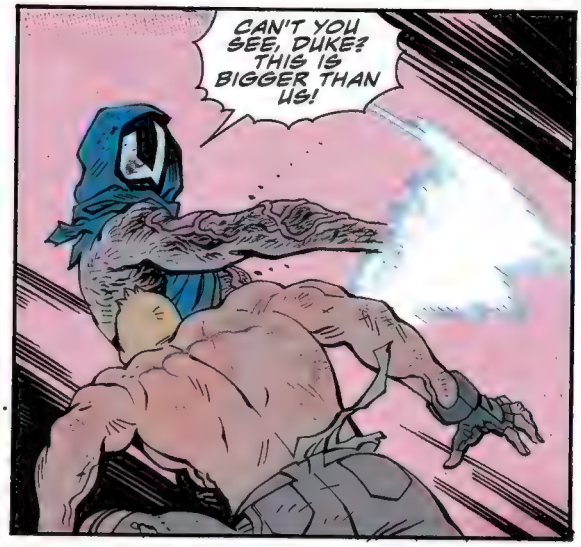
SMASH!

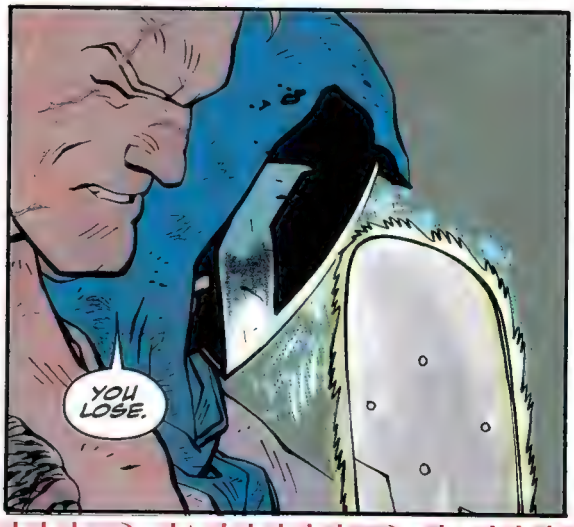
WHAT THE--?!
WHAM
NOW IT'S A PARTY!
BOOM BOOM
BOOM!

THEY HAVE ONE OF THE MACHINES...
MOMMA GONNA GIVE YOU A SPANKIN'!
PUNT!

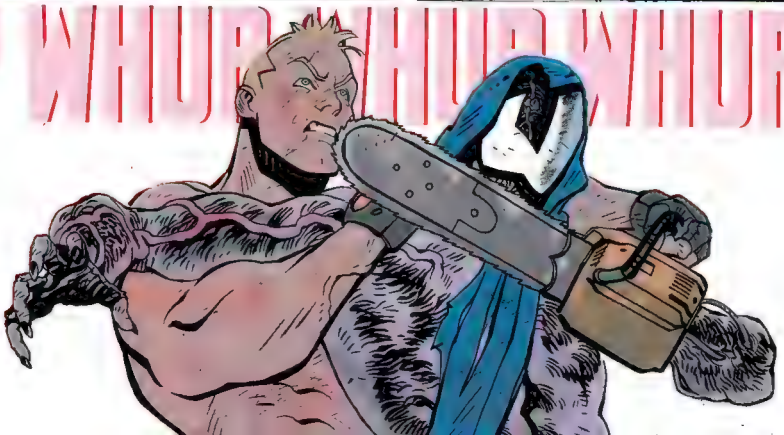








WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHU

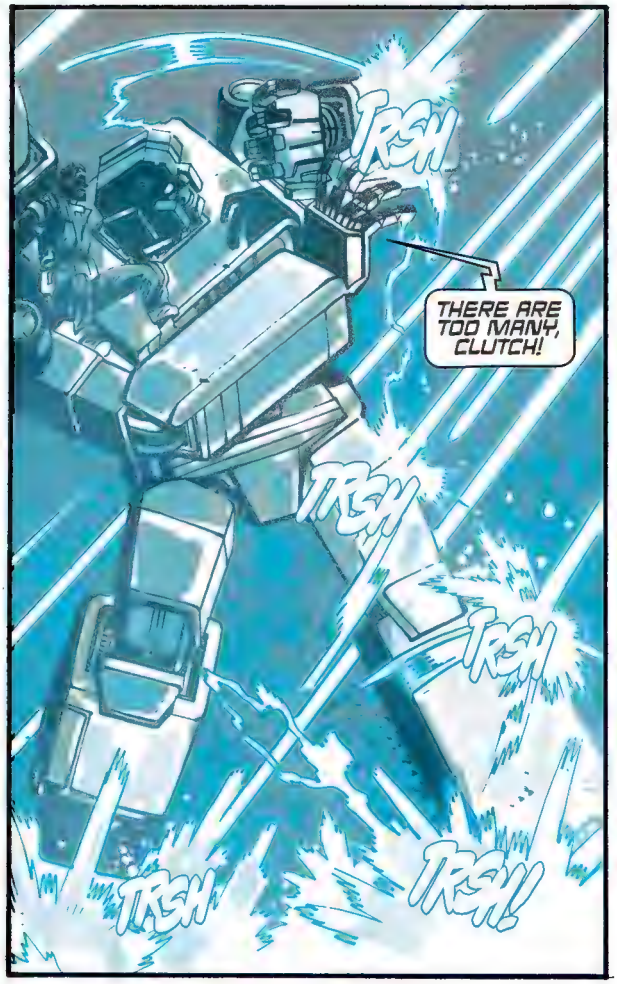


T-22

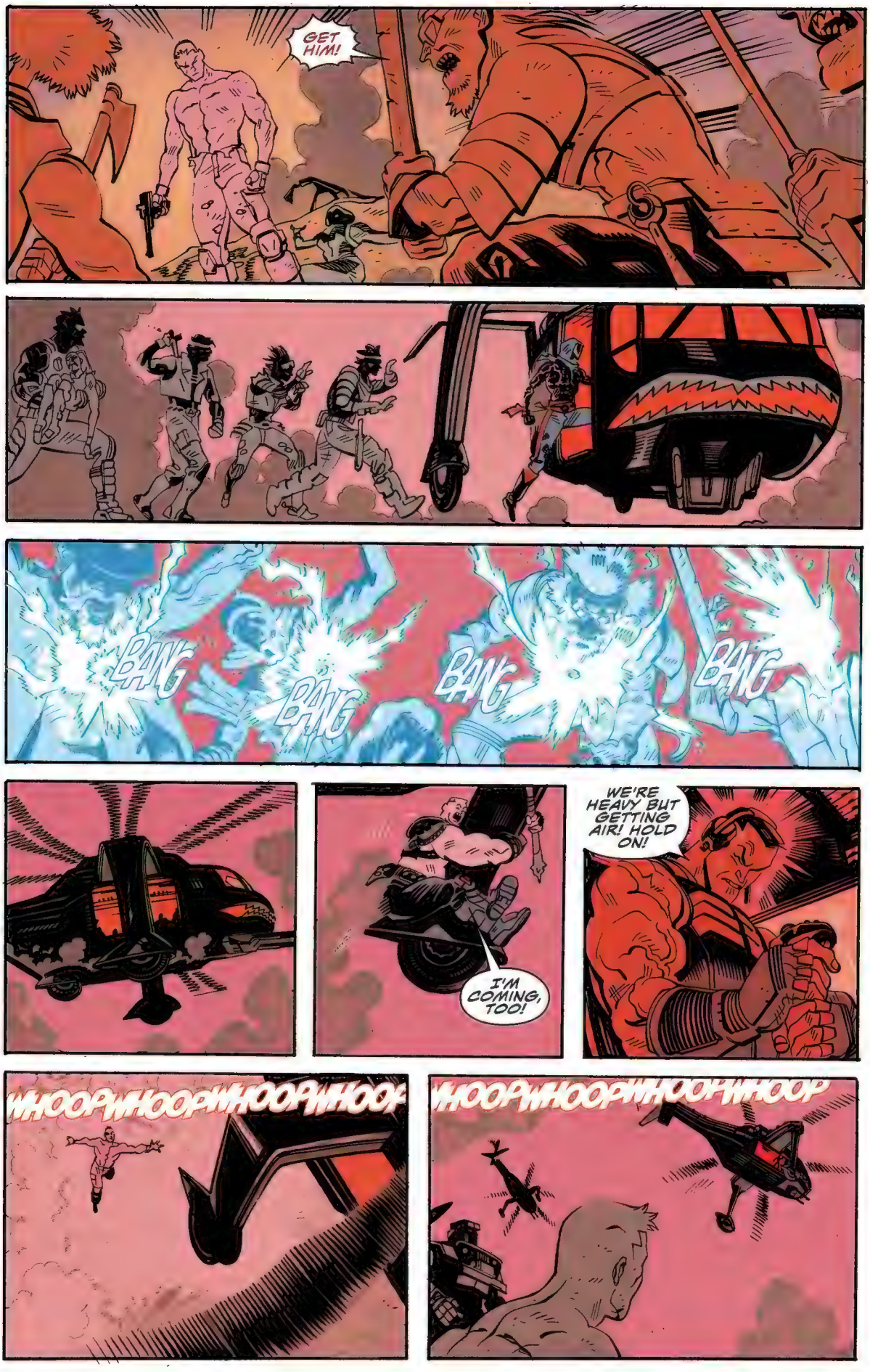
I TOLD YOU MY PEOPLE WERE LOYAL.

SEND THE VALKYRIES DOWN TO RETRIEVE THE MASKED PSYCHO, BUT DON'T ENGAGE WITH THE JOES.
BUT THAT'S THE ROBOT I SAW! SEE?! HE'S WITH THE JOES.
IT'S HARD TO MISS, MERCER. TELL THE OTHER TRANSPORTS TO OPEN FIRE ON IT. I WANT TO SEE ONE OF THESE ROBOTS IN ACTION.

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP


TRSH
THERE ARE TOO MANY, CLUTCH!
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH!

COME WITH US, COMMANDER.
NO!
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW THEN.
YOU'RE LUCKY I GRANT YOU THIS GIFT OF LIFE. PERHAPS WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, YOU WILL SEE MY WAY.
ENJOY YOUR NEW... METAL ALLY, DUKE.
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
ZARANA, ZANDAR, TORCH, RIPPER, AND BUZZER...COME WITH ME.
LEAVE THE REST OF THE DREADNOKS TO DEAL WITH THE JOES.


GET HIM!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
I'M COMING, TOO!
WE'RE HEAVY BUT GETTING AIR! HOLD ON!
WHOOPWHOOPWHOOPWHOOP
WHOOPWHOOPWHOOPWHOOP

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, DESTRO.
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.
WE'LL DEBATE THAT WHEN WE RETURN HOME.
IT APPEARS THE JOES HAVE ONE OF THE ROBOTS UNDER THEIR CONTROL...

"...AND DUKE WAS UNAWARE."
CONRAD... BUDDY...LET ME EXPLAIN, OKAY?
I KNOW YOU'RE--
KRAK
DUKE! DON'T!
TALK, ROBOT!
NOW!

EPILOGUE.
THE PIT.
DAMN. ONE OF DESTRO'S MEN GOT LUCKY.
->BZZZZZZ<- SECURE CALL. Z-CHANNEL.
->SIGH<- PASSCODE: GREYSTOKE.

NOW IS A BAD TIME, BABY SISTER.
YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW, BRO.
YOU'RE ON A COBRA TRANSPORT AFTER A VIOLENT ENCOUNTER WITH G.I. JOE.
I HATE WHEN YOU DO THAT.
YOU'RE NEVER ANY FUN ANYMORE.
IT IS MY BUSINESS TO BE STEPS AHEAD OF EVERYONE.
ARE YOU READY TO QUIT THE CHARADE AND JOIN US?
HARDLY. THIS MAY BE THE LONGEST RUSE I'VE EVER HELD, BUT IT HAS BEEN WORTH IT.
SINCE THOSE ROBOTS AWOKE ON EARTH AND I TOOK ON THIS ROLE, I HAVE PLAYED THIS GAME PERFECTLY.
I SAW AN OPPORTUNITY, SO I TOOK IT...
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WHAT...

ZARTAN?
FOR CHAOS, OF COURSE.
THE REAL WAR IS JUST GETTING STARTED, ZARANA.
ONE THAT WE WILL CREATE.
HAWK

STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: GIJOE@SKYBOUND.COM

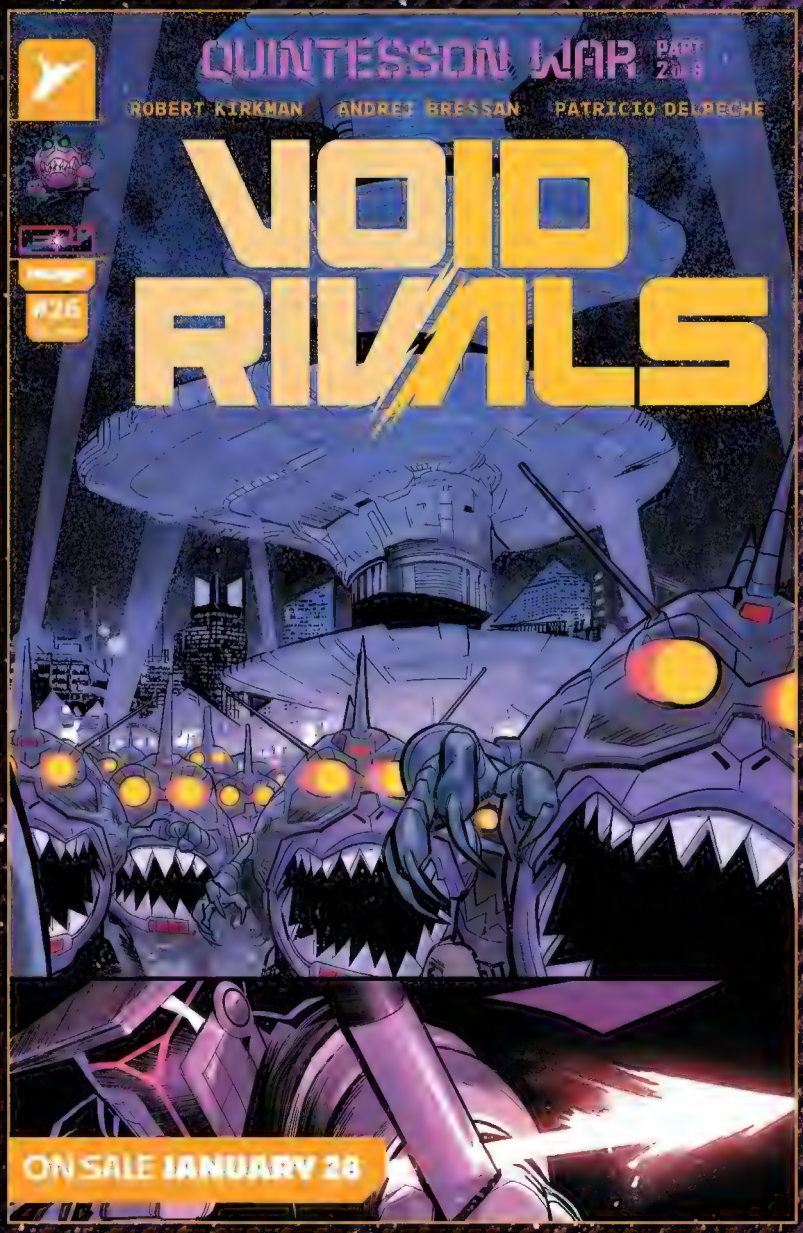
Annnnd…scene!

What did y'all think of Dreadnok War now that it's wrapped? Joshua, Tom, Jordie, and Rus poured their blood, sweat, and tears into it, so I hope we delivered the goods. You want to know what was NOT delivered? MORE LETTERS! Please drop us a line and let us know what you thought: gijoe@skybound.com. Yes, that's an order!

And as a fun little treat to end the series, here's Tom's killer designs for the twins, Zarana and Zandar

See you next issue!
-Ben

EXPLORE THE ENERGON UNIVERSE



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LOUISMIDDO
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image
#18
MARVIN'S HOBBIES
ON SALE JANUARY 28

ROBERT KIRKMAN
DAN MORA
SARAH STERN
TRANSFORMERS
image
#29
ON SALE FEBRUARY 11

ENERGON EXPERIENCE

Bow!

CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

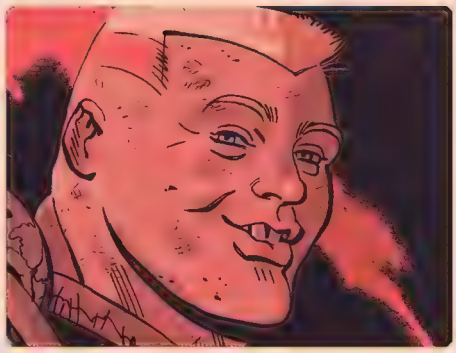
WHO: Hawk

WHERE: A ranking Colonel in the U.S. military and founder of G.I. Joe...or is he?

WHAT: The shocking reveal at the end of Dreadnok War that Zartan is impersonating Colonel Hawk begs the sinister question... just how long has Zartan been leading G.I. Joe? And what's his endgame?

FACE THE MUSIC!

You didn't really think we'd end Dreadnok War without revealing the most infamous Dreadnok of all, did you?! Fans have been clamoring for the arrival of Zartan and now you have it...but what does this mean for G.I. Joe?!



CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

This month, I ask our award-winning letterer on G.I. JOE, Rus Wooton, the most important question of all!

Q: You're in the hot seat now, Rus Wooton, and the question is...who is your favorite Dreadnok?

A: I have to say, the new guy, ROAD PIG.

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #28 AVAILABLE 1/14
- ☐ G.I. JOE #17 AVAILABLE 1/14
- ☐ G.I. JOE #18 AVAILABLE 1/28
- ☐ VOID RIVALS #26 AVAILABLE 1/28

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— JORGE CORONA
TRANSFORMERS

"The more I see of Ludo Lullabi's art, the more I fall in love with the worlds he makes. I can't get enough."

— RYAN OTTLEY
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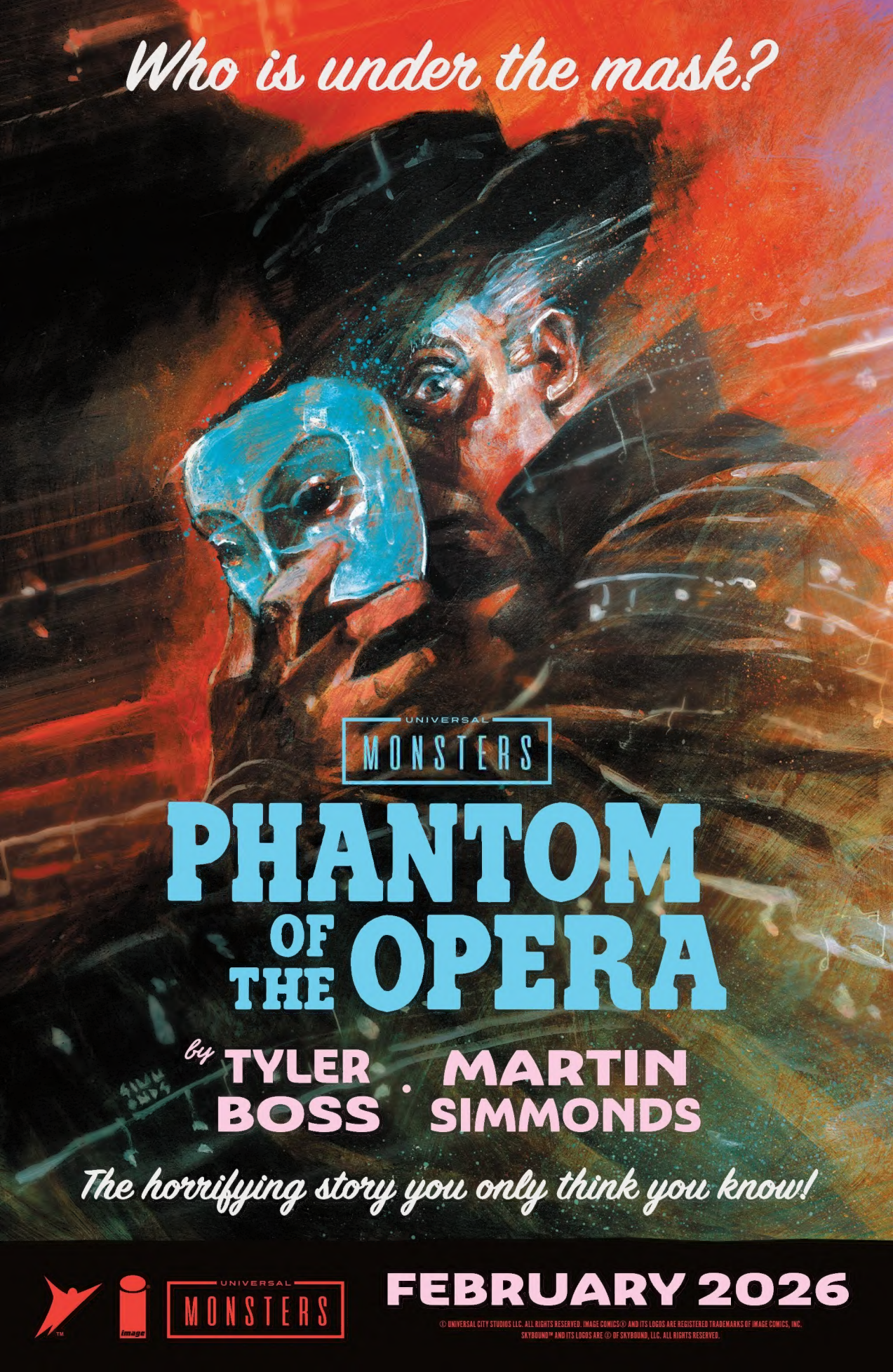

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